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American Institute of Sacred Literature.

LESSON COURSES IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST.

SO LONG as the International Lesson Committee continues to break the lesson period in January and July there will come a spirit of unrest in the Sunday-school field at the end of the calendar year, when a new subject is about to be entered upon.

Many of those taking up the subject of the life of Christ with January 1, in accordance with the appointment of the International Lesson Committee, will prefer to plan a year's work, and it seems wise at this time, therefore, to call attention to the material on the life of Christ offered by the AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF SACRED LITERATURE as follows :

I. For the preacher or teacher.

1. A correspondence course, "Constructive Studies in the Life of Christ." The aim of the course is to enable the student to construct his own "Life of Christ" in a true historical perspective. To this end the entire gospel history will be studied in a connected way, and especial attention will be given to the most important political and social features of New Testament times, and to the interpretation of critical passages.

2. A correspondence course in "The Gospel of Luke." This course includes: (1) comparison with other gospels; (2) the history of the life of Christ; (3) the study of the times in which he lived; (4) the origin and character of the gospel; (5) careful investigation into words and phrases; (6) thoughtful consideration of special topics on history, exegesis, and doctrine; (7) application of the material to present life and character.

3. A correspondence course in "The Gospel of John." This course will include all the points of the above, so far as applicable to this gospel, and in addition will throw special emphasis upon the discourses of Jesus.

4. A correspondence course in the "Social Teachings of Jesus"—the teaching of Jesus concerning society, the state, the family, wealth, and other social institutions.

5. A correspondence course in "New Testament Times in Palestine"—an account of the rise and fall of the Jewish state from 175 B. C. to 70 A. D., with special attention to the history of the Pharisees and Sadducees, and to the Jewish social and religious life. The aim of the course is to furnish a historical background for the life of Christ.

In all of these courses the work is conducted by a skilled teacher—the first three courses by Professor Elbert Russell, of the chair of biblical literature in Earlham College, Richmond, Ind.; the last two by Professor Shailer Mathews, professor of New Testament literature and interpretation in the University of Chicago, and author of *The Social Teaching of Jesus* and *New Testament Times in Palestine*.

6. A professional reading course upon "The Life of Christ"—a series of ten of the best books on different phases of the subject.

7. A similar reading course on "The Teaching of Jesus"—a series of nine standard works upon this subject. In connection with these reading courses, reviews prepared especially from the standpoint of student use are provided.

II. For the individual study of those who wish to work independently, or for class material, there are offered:

1. An elementary outline course upon "The Life of Christ"—an elementary historical study of all the material in the four gospels.

2. An elementary outline course on the "Social and Ethical Teaching of Jesus"—an elementary study of the teaching of Jesus as presented in the four gospels, with a special view to determining the real essence of the teaching and its translation into terms of modern life and thought.

3. Inductive studies in "The Gospel of Luke"—a pamphlet containing forty-eight inductive studies.

4. Inductive studies in "The Gospel of John," containing forty-eight studies.

CONSTRUCTIVE BIBLE STUDIES FOR CHILDREN.

Perhaps it is not inappropriate to call attention here to a new series (in press) of lessons for children of the ages corresponding to the fourth and fifth grades in the public schools; that is, nine to eleven years. These lessons are prepared by the secretary of the INSTITUTE, and published by the University of Chicago Press. They belong to the series now being issued, of which the editor of the BIBLICAL WORLD and Professor Ernest D. Burton are the general editors, and of which two volumes have appeared, *Constructive Studies in the Life of Christ*, and *Constructive Studies in the Priestly Element of the Old Testament*.

The lessons are in book form, the contents of the book consisting of (1) a pedagogical introduction, giving general principles and suggestions of value to a Sunday-school teacher, some special notes concerning grading in primary work, gained from experience in a large Sunday school, and other information of interest to the superintendent and the teacher; (2) a series of lessons introducing all the books of the Bible in one year.

The aim of the lessons is so to introduce the Bible to the child (1) that he will be interested in its contents; (2) that he will acquire some familiarity with the several books of the Bible, not alone by name and position, but also as to the specific character of the contents of each book; (3) that he will develop a desire to read the books for himself; (4) that he will, at least to some extent, come to regard the contents of the several books of the Bible from the point of view of the writers of these books, and will therefore be better able to appreciate the teaching contained in them; (5) that he will obtain such a knowledge of the location of the various books and the different kinds of material which the Bible contains as will enable him to handle it intelligently and with some ease; (6) that he will gain the power of self-expression by practice in story-telling and informal conversation in class.

Each lesson contains definite references to outside material, useful suggestions for the preparation of the lessons, as well as a specific program for the presentation of the lesson. Written work on the part of the children is called for in the class. Perhaps the strongest feature of the work, however, is the assignment of interesting and appropriate home reading, and memorizing, which by bridging the chasm between Sundays continues the interest through the week and insures steady progress. In connection with this home work specific suggestions are made to parents for further developing and impressing the work of the Sunday lesson. The book is intended, therefore, not only for the teacher, but for the parent; and where the suggestions are carefully carried out its use will insure the closest relationship between the Sunday school and the home. It is also to be expected that the definiteness of the suggestions made will lead to religious instruction and Bible study in some homes where parents have heretofore had no interest in the subject.

These lessons have already been tested for two years in the Hyde Park Baptist Sunday school in classes of from forty to fifty children, and the experience of these two years of practical use is embodied in the lessons.

A PAMPHLET ON BIBLE STUDY.

The INSTITUTE also desires to announce the publication of an address by the editor of the *BIBLICAL WORLD* on "Bible Study and Personal Experience." The address was delivered in October, 1903, before the Young Men's Christian Association of Chicago and the Illinois State Association of Baptist Young People. The INSTITUTE wishes to make this address, which aims to set forth the close relation between Bible study and growth in the personal religious life, accessible to as large a number of persons as possible. The pamphlet therefore is offered at the actual cost of publication to ministers and teachers who are interested in the theme which it presents. Already many ministers are securing copies in sufficient number to distribute throughout their congregations with the purpose of arousing an interest in the study of the Bible.